

**In the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 16, and ending on page 6, line 21, with the following:

In one embodiment of the present invention, the absorbent fibers comprise one or more superabsorbent materials in the form of a sodium salt of a cross-linked polymer. Such superabsorbent materials include, but are not limited to, Fiberdri® 1161, Fiberdri® 1231, and Fiberdri® 1241 (all available from Camelot Superabsorbent Ltd. of Calgary, Canada); and Oasis® 101, Oasis® 102, and Oasis® 111 (all available from Technical Absorbents, UK). The Fiberdri® 1161 and 1241 fibers have a diameter around 20 microns and a length around two centimeters. Some other types of Fiberdri® superabsorbent fibers have a length around four centimeters.